

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/005072

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
 - ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
 - ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
 - ☒ the description:
 - pages 1, 21-46 as originally filed/furnished
 - pages* 2-20 received by this Authority on 08.02.2005
 - pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☒ the claims:
 - nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
 - nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 - nos.* 1-24 received by this Authority on 08.02.2005
 - nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☒ the drawings:
 - sheets 1-47 as originally filed/furnished
 - sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 - ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
 - ☐ the description, pages _____
 - ☒ the claims, nos. 25-36
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
 - ☐ the description, pages _____
 - ☐ the claims, nos. _____
 - ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 - ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 - ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Documents cited in the international search report:

Document 1: JP 2003-22326 A (Fujitsu Limited), 24 January 2003 (Family: none)

Document 2: JP 11-120261 A (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation), 30 April 1999 (Family: none)

Document 3: JP 9-135816 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 27 May 1997 (Family: none)

Document 4: JP 2001-84301 A (Kozo Nakano), 30 March 2001 (Family: none)

Explanation

Documents 1 to 4 do not set forth a "function wherein the aforementioned communication server establishes a virtual nurse care room which enables the patient's state to be verified from a nurse terminal or doctor terminal having a video telephone, and to which a patient terminal used by a person requiring care, such as a patient for whom changes in circumstances need to be monitored, patients living alone or bed-ridden patients, is connected" and "a function wherein the aforementioned reception server connects said patient terminal to the aforementioned virtual nurse care room according to a request from the patient terminal used by the person

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requiring care, and a function wherein said requesting terminal is connected to the aforementioned established virtual nurse care room according to a request from a nurse terminal or doctor terminal having a video telephone function" disclosed in claim 1 of this application, and said features would not be obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Therefore the inventions set forth in claims 1 to 24 involve an inventive step.